

CITY LEADERS ACADEMY

CELEBRATING OUR 9TH YEAR

The City Leaders Academy now is taking applications for its 2020/2021 Academy session. This leadership program is for middle school students (6th-8th grade). Launched in 2012, the City Leaders Academy introduces middle school students to the leaders and locations that make Columbus a great opportunity city. This leadership academy is designed to educate and accelerate middle school youth to become model citizens and future leaders of our great city. This year, our curriculum will focus on ***The Best in You - Youth Leadership Development Program***.

We invite you to apply to the City Leaders Academy. The ideal candidate for the program should exhibit leadership abilities at school and within the community, exhibit great behavior and **really want** to be part of this great opportunity. Selection criteria is as follows:

- Must be a city of Columbus resident (If you are currently receiving City of Columbus trash and recycling services, you are eligible).
- Must be entering the 6th-8th grade in Fall 2020.
- Only one child per household is eligible.
- Must **maintain a 3.0 grade point average** in school (an updated grade card must be submitted each grading period). Students who will enter the 6th grade in the fall may also submit a report card and a letter from a teacher or administrator verifying it equates to a 3.0 GPA. This may not be possible this year until school begins; it must be part of the participant's file.
- If possible, submission of a letter from a teacher or administrator acknowledging the youth's leadership abilities should accompany the application. If this is not available, please submit a letter from a community leader; this could be a letter from a civic group or from clergy.
- A parent/guardian must approve participation by fully completing all paperwork and agreeing to comply with program guidelines as well as attending the **mandatory orientation with their child**.
- The selection process also includes a one-on-one personal interview between the applicant and program coordinator(s) during the orientation session.
- Students must submit **two** written essays (see instructions on application) in response to questions on leadership.
- The entire year (August–April) which includes the “boot camp,” equates to a total of 61 hours; a minimum of 55 hours are required to graduate. The boot camp is **mandatory; youth cannot miss more than two City Leaders Academy sessions throughout the entire year**. If a youth misses more than two sessions, they will not be able to graduate from the Academy. **It's very important that you check your calendars before applying. Youth participation is imperative and we rely on parents to get them to all meetings and events.**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The City Leaders Academy and related activities are **FREE** for all participants.
- Most meals are provided, however, youth may be asked to pack lunch on some days during camp and during the school year. We try to accommodate special diet needs as much as possible. We do ask each family to sign up for snacks for at least one monthly meet up; sign up is during orientation.
- This year, we restructured the program due to COVID-19. We are restricted to the number of youth we can serve and will only be able to accept 8 youth this year. All staff and participants will follow social distancing protocols; more information will be shared with selected participants.
- Our application time is a bit shorter this year; the application period kicks off Wednesday, June 17 and ends at 5 p.m. Friday, July 17.
- Applications must be returned by **hard copy only** to our offices at The Jerry Hammond Center, 1111 E. Broad Street by 5 p.m. Friday, July 17. You may mail your package or leave it with the front desk.
- All selected applicants will be notified on Friday, July 24 with an email invitation to a **“MANDATORY Orientation WITH YOUR PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN”** on Saturday, Aug. 1 at noon. *Only apply if you are able to participate in the mandatory orientation Aug. 1.*
- Our program year begins with a week-long, **mandatory** boot camp, *Discovering Columbus*. Boot camp runs 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 3-7, 2020. The drop off location is the Jerry Hammond Building, 1111 E. Broad Street. Youth must attend every day of boot camp.
- The school year Academy sessions take place September–May on the third Saturday of each month. The format of the sessions hasn’t been determined and will be in-person or online. If in-person, the sessions will run noon-3 p.m. If online, the sessions will run noon-2 p.m. As a reminder, youth only can miss a maximum of two days of the school year session.
- Currently, graduation will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at noon, location to be determined.
- On occasion, we do have a few opportunities to participate in events that fall outside of our regular meeting dates, such as community service projects or special events.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact her at slwynn@columbus.gov or 614.645.3330. Thank you for helping us cultivate our next generation of city leaders.

Key Dates to Remember:
Only apply if you can make all these dates:

July 17, 2020: Application Deadline

July 24, 2020: Parents/Youth Notified of Application Decision

Aug. 1, 2020: Mandatory Parent/Youth Orientation (in person or Zoom/online)

Aug. 3-7, 2020: Mandatory *Discovering Columbus* “Boot” Camp (Drop off each day @ The Jerry Hammond Center, 1111 E. Broad Street)

CITY LEADERS ACADEMY 2020/2021 APPLICATION

The application deadline is **5 p.m. Friday, July 17**; incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

All applications must be submitted in hard copy form. Please mail or drop off your applications to:

Sheri-Lynn Wynn, Program Director, City Leaders Academy
The Jerry Hammond Center
1111 E. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205

Selected youth will be notified by **July 24, 2020**. Staff is not involved in the scoring of applications.

STUDENT ESSAY QUESTIONS

Applicants must respond and submit two separate essay to the questions below. Responses must be at least 250 words in length, and typed in MLA format (12 point Times New Roman font, double spaced). Please attach both essay questions to the completed City Leaders application.

1. An important focus of City Leaders Academy, **The Best in You Youth Leadership Program**, is to expand a student's understanding of the contribution they can make to themselves, their racial and/or ethnic group, their family, school, worship center and the community in which they live and to prepare for life-long learning. Please tell us how you have already made a substantial impact on any/all of the above with your leadership abilities.
2. Inspired by the city leadership, select an individual from Columbus that you would consider to be a great community leader. Discuss the qualities this individual has that makes them a leader, along with the things they have done as a leader to positively impact their community. Be sure to explain why you chose this individual and how they have been a leader in your life. The leader you choose to write about may be of any age, from the past or present. You do not have to know them personally; they can be someone well-known from the Columbus area.

Please respond to essay questions in your **own words**; responses plagiarized or written by someone other than the applicant will be removed from the selection process.

2020/2021 APPLICATION INFORMATION

Participant Information

Youth name:			Gender: Male/Female/Non-binary/Other (circle one)	
Birth date:	Age:	School in Fall:	GPA:	Entering Grade:

Parent/Guardian Information

Name of Child's Parent(s) or Guardian(s):			
Address: <i>(Must be a Columbus resident or receive City of Columbus trash and snow removal to qualify)</i>		City:	ZIP:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	Work Phone:	
E-mail (Required): (our preferred method of contact)			
Child resides primarily with: (circle one) Mother/Father/Mother and Father/Other:			

Emergency Contacts (other than parents)

Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Work Phone	Relationship
1.				
2.				
3.				

Photography Release

The staff, the media, and programming partners with permission from the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, may photograph or videotape my child for educational and public relations purposes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents and family members of the City Leaders may attend the sessions however do we have your permission to photograph and videotape you? Yes _____ No _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Field Trip, Routine and Activity Release

I give permission for my child to participate in all field trips and activities offered by the City Leaders Program. These trips will include what is listed on the agenda, however, may be subject to change. I also authorize the City of Columbus to do everything necessary to make sure of my child's health and safety in case of an emergency. I agree to not hold the City of Columbus, staff and sponsors of the program responsible for property damage or injury that results from my child's participation in this program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Received: _____

Staff Initials _____